

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has not considered all of the references submitted in the Information Disclosure statement file on November 24, 2004. A supplemental information disclosure statement with legible copies of all foreign patents documents, and not patent literature accompany this amendment. Accordingly, the Examiner should consider all references listed in this information disclosure statement.

The Examiner has objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner states that "it is not clear what the terms 'announcement,' 'announced,' and 'unannounces' pertain to." These terms are detailed in the specification on page 21, lines 10-14; page 22, line 28- page 23 line 10; and page 24 lines 13-30. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7, 19, 26 and 55 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner states that the phrase "the Show Object" in claims 1, 19, 26 and 55 lacks antecedent basis. The Examiner also states that the phrase "the Subscriber Object" in claims 19, 26 and 55 lacks antecedent basis. Claims 1, 7, 19, 26 and 55 have been amended to provide antecedent basis for the phrases "the Show Object" and "the Subscriber Object." Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-55 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Ullman. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained in the background of the invention of the present application, linking enhanced content, such as content from web pages on the internet, with flows of data, such as a television video signal, presents certain problems and has been dealt with in a number of different ways. Technically, one is attempting to provide two different types of data from two different sources and yet co-ordinate their presentation. Furthermore, the enhanced content can be provided in a large variety of different ways in a similarly large number of different formats. This increases

the technical difficulty of providing a client device that can be able to receive arbitrary enhanced content. As detailed below with respect to independent claim 1, the claimed "Virtual Stage" or platform allows a client device to be automatically configured to receive and show enhanced content. The "Virtual Stage" is a technical solution to the problem of configuring a system to receive arbitrary enhanced content and provides a significant advance over earlier arrangements.

Specifically, claim 1 claims a computer-readable medium including program code segments for creating the Virtual Stage. A first program code segment configures the client device to receive at least one segment of enhanced content (such as website information). A second program code segment then configures the client device to present the enhanced content. The enhanced content provider can then provide the enhanced content to the client device where it is received and displayed.

Accordingly, the claimed program code segments automatically configure a client device to receive and display enhanced content without forcing a user to manually install various software packages or to manually log into content provider services. Furthermore, by automatically configuring the client device, the claimed invention allows content providers to supply a single type of content without being concerned that users will not be able to access it. Consequently, the user does not have to search for content that it is in a format compatible with the specific software installed on the client device.

Like the present invention, Ullman concerns presenting enhanced content on a client device. Ullman, however, fails to disclose or even suggest a Virtual Stage that includes an abstraction of a Receiver Object and an abstraction of a Show Object. Further, Ullman fails to even involve solving the problem of automatically configuring a client system to receive and present enhanced content.

Since Ullman fails to disclose the claimed Virtual Stage, Receiver Object and Show Object, the rejection of claims 1-55 as anticipated should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Attorney Docket No. 559442001300.

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Respectfully submitted,

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